



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION

LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

KATIE BOWER  
CHAIR

Thursday, June 29, 2023  
9:00 a.m.  
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT	REPRESENTING
Ms. Katie Bower	Office of Highway Safety Planning
Mr. William Miller	Local Representative
Mr. Bobby Gwizdz	Michigan Department of State
Ms. Ashley Ellsworth	Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports - Behavioral and Physical Health and Aging Services Administration
Mr. Steve Kiefer (virtual)	Governor's Office
Sheriff Michael Poulin	Local Government Representative
Ms. Linda Scarpetta (virtual)	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Chief Jon Gale	Local Government Representative
MEMBERS ABSENT	REPRESENTING
Mr. Troy Hansbarger	Michigan Department of Education
Mr. Gregg Brunner	Michigan Department of Transportation
Major Ryan Pennell	Michigan State Police
STAFF SUPPORT	REPRESENTING
Ms. Katelyn Mullin	Office of Highway Safety Planning

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (GTSAC) meeting was called to order by Chair, Ms. Katie Bower, at 9:00 a.m.

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Ms. Katie Bower welcomed everyone to the meeting. Roll call conducted with public introductions made.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. William Miller made a motion to approve the March 7, 2023, meeting minutes; Mr. Bobby Gwizdz supported; all ayes; motion carried.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Sgt. Travis Fletcher, Michigan State Police (MSP)**

#### **SIGNED INTO LAW:**

#### **HB 4250 - 4252 - Hands-free Driving (Koleszar/Carter, T./Mueller) PA 39, 40, 41'2023**

- Tie-barred together
- Would prohibit holding or using mobile electronic device.
  - Exceptions for: law enforcement / etc.; emergency; GPS; hands-free voice-operated use; continuously recording or broadcasting video inside or outside the vehicle.
- "Enhances" penalties; if a crash, LEO must indicate use on crash report\*
- Allows for 90-day driver's license suspension after 3 or more violations in a 3-year period.
- First offense: 0 pts / \$100 fine
- Second offense: 1 pt SOS abstract / \$250 fine (doubled fine if a crash)
- Third offense: 2 pts SOS abstract
- \*HB 4252 would require MSP report to legislature re 602b violations/data\*\*

Katie Bower, Office of Highway Safety Planning • Steven Kiefer, Governor's Office • Bobby Gwizdz, Department of State  
• Gregg Brunner, Department of Transportation • Linda Scarpetta, Department of Health and Human Services  
Maj. Ryan Pennell, Department of State Police • Ashley Ellsworth, Health and Aging Services Agency • William Miller, Local Representative  
Chief Jon Gale, Local Representative • Sheriff Michael Poulin, Local Representative • Troy Hansbarger, Department of Education

- for operating a vehicle while sending or receiving a message on an electronic wireless device. & Enhances forwarding abstract

*3/9/2023: Introduced; To Transportation, Mobility, and Infrastructure Committee  
6/07/2023: Signed by the Governor with immediate effect.*

## **ENROLLED**

### **Senate Bill 125 - Local Grade Separation Grant Program - Traffic Control**

- MDOT to create a grade separation grant program for the separation of traffic and railroad traffic in this state.

*3/1/2023: Introduced Sen. Camilleri & referred to Senate Transportation  
5/10/2023: Senate Vote 38Y - 0N  
5/17/2023: Rule suspended - Second Reading  
6/14/2023: House Vote 93Y - 16N  
6/27/2023: Ordered Enrolled*

### **House Bill 4153 - Local Grade Separation Fund - Traffic Control**

- Provides parameters for MDOT when prioritizing approval of funding applications for railroad crossing projects.
  - Within 5 miles of railyard
  - Within 5 miles of manufacturing facility
  - Within 5 miles of:
    - Courthouse
    - Assisted living facility
    - Hospital / Dispatch
    - Fire Station
    - Airport
    - School
    - Other

*2/28/2023: Introduced Rep. Churches & referred to Senate Transportation  
6/14/2023: House Vote 95Y- 14N  
6/27/2023: Senate Vote 37Y- 0N  
6/28/2023: Ordered Enrolled*

## **FIRST CHAMBER BILLS / MOVING:**

### **House Bill 4012 - Speed Limits - Traffic Control**

- Modify required analysis for min and max speed limits. Require speed to be set below the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile if engineering and safety study demonstrate safety hazard at 85<sup>th</sup>.

*1/12/2023: Introduced Rep. Slagh & referred to House Transportation  
6/13/2023: Reported with recommendation and referred to second reading.*

### **House Bill 4028 - Wreckers / Spring Weight Restriction - Traffic Control**

- Exempt tow trucks from seasonal weight restrictions when actively towing a disabled vehicle or traveling to/from the location of a disabled vehicle for the purpose of towing or servicing the disabled vehicle.

*1/12/2023: Introduced Rep. Zorn & referred to House Transportation*

### **House Bill 4126 - Traffic Control - Speed limit - Sunset Repeal**

- Procedure for establishing certain speed limits; repeal sunset.

*2/22/2023: Introduced Rep. Snyder & referred to House Transportation*

#### **HB 4183 - Historical Vehicles (Roth)**

- Would expand permissible drive time of historical vehicles.
  - Currently, to/from exhibition, or any time in month of August
  - Under bill, any time between Memorial Day and Labor Day

*3/7/23: Introduced; To Transportation, Mobility, and Infrastructure Committee*

#### **Senate Bill 21 - Mackinac Bridge - Critical Infrastructure Designation**

- Would designate:
  - Any movable bridge in the state, Mackinac Bridge, Zilwaukee Bridge, Rouge River Bridge, MacArthur Bridge, and each international crossing in the state (Ambassador Bridge, Blue Water Bridge, Detroit-Windsor Tunnel, Gordie Howe International Bridge, and International Bridge)
- As KEY FACILITY “if the portions of the facility not open to or intended to be used by the public are posted with signage as required by subsection (4)”
- Significance of this is = 4-year felony for trespass
- Designates the whole thing a key facility—not just those areas not open to public

*1/17/2023: Introduced Sen. Damoose & referred to Transportation*

#### **SECOND CHAMBER:**

#### **Senate Bill 43 - Traffic Control Devices - FWY**

- Requires use of certain traffic control devices when closing a highway or portion of highway under certain conditions.
- Re MDOT: if freeway closed completely, concrete barriers / if portion closed during dark, concrete barriers
  - Does not apply if freeway closed for less than 3d for emergency work

*1/26/2023: Introduced Sen. Cheery & referred to Senate Transportation and Infrastructure*

*3/07/2023: Senate Hearing (testimony)*

*3/23/2023: Senate Vote 28Y-10N*

*6/20/2023: House Second Reading*

#### **SB 87 - Registration Plates (Moss): Amends timing for dealer transfer and fees.**

- Would afford a vehicle purchaser 21 days (rather than 15) to transfer vehicle registration [to avoid extra \$50 transfer fee, and to avoid vehicle being deemed unregistered]

*2/21/23: Introduced; to Senate Regulatory Affairs Committee*

*3/9/23: Committee Hearing*

*3/22/23: Senate Vote 32Y – 6N*

*3/22/23: Referred to Transportation*

#### **Senate Bill 251 - Motor Bus Transportation Act; Modify display of ID Requirements**

- Strikes requirement to include telephone number on the side of the bus.

*4/11/2023: Introduced Sen. Geiss & referred to Senate Transportation*

*6/07/2023: Senate Vote 38Y - 0N and referred to House Transportation*

#### **House Bill 4132 - Traffic Control - Automated Work zone Speed Enforcement**

- Use of automated traffic enforcement devices in work zones to enforce speed limit reductions.
- TIE BAR 4133

*2/22/2023: Introduced Rep. Snyder & referred to House Transportation*

*6/22/2023: House Vote 67Y – 42N – Referred to Senate Transportation*

**House Bill 4133 - Traffic Control - AWSE; Civil Infraction**

- AWSE - Revise to reflect the distribution of certain fines related to automated speed enforcement systems.
- TIE BAR 4132

*2/22/2023: Introduced Rep. Mueller & referred to House Transportation*

*6/22/2023: House Vote 68Y – 41N – Referred to Senate Transportation*

**[HB 4191-4193 - Corrections (Aiyash)]**

- Tie-barred together
- Provides program to provide driver license and state identification cards to parolees.

*3/7/2023: Introduced; To Criminal Justice Committee*

*6/14/2023: House Vote 73Y - 36N - Referred to Senate Judiciary*

**House Bill 4353 - HOV Lanes -Traffic Control**

- Allows MDOT to designate a lane on a highway for the exclusive use of high-occupancy vehicles or other classes of vehicles approved by MDOT.

*4/11/2023: Introduced Rep. MacDonell & referred to House Transportation*

*6/27/2023: House Vote 56Y– 52N & referred to Senate Transportation*

**RECENTLY INTRODUCED LEGISLATION:**

**Child Passenger Safety (CPS) - to be introduced**

**ACTION TEAM UPDATES - Ms. Carissa McQuiston - Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)**

Traffic Safety and Engineering Action Team - working on the Safe Streets and Roads for all safety grants.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Action Team - looking at their action plan to include details from the Safe System Approach (SSA) and the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP).

**STANDING REPORTS**

**Local Representative - Sheriff Michael Poulin**

The first annual Michigan Sheriff's Association (MSA) Conference took place in Muskegon, Michigan.

Thank you for the collaboration for the 2022 GTSAC Awards.

Handled traffic safety concerns in Oceana County for the event Electric Forest which drew a massive audience.

Preparing for the upcoming bicycle/pedestrian event.

Crash statistics recently released throughout the state - will bring forth any questions or concerns tied to this data to the commission.

Ingham County Sheriff Scott Wigglesworth created a video highlighting the new hands-free law:  
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=305915355106104>. Seeking additional campaigns / videos for disbursement.

#### **Local Representative - Chief Jon Gale**

Traffic Safety initiatives remain a focus for chiefs statewide with a dedicated traffic article in the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP) magazine. Seeking ideas on what to include in additional articles including distracted driving.

The MACP Traffic Safety awards have been absent for the past ten years. A grant was recently submitted to OHSP requesting \$50,000 to allow for traffic safety awards and plaques. Winners will be honored at the winter conference in February 2024.

This will be Chief Gale's last GTSAC due to retirement at the end of August 2023.

#### **Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports - Behavioral and Physical Health and Aging Services Administration - Ms. Ashley Ellsworth**

Ms. Ellsworth has been working to update the Transportation Operating Standard for Area Agencies on Aging across the State. On June 16, 2023, this updated standard went in front of the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging, which is Governor Appointed body that approves all items such as this, and it was unanimously approved.

The next phase of this project is to form a 'Best Practices' workgroup to share successes, barriers, and ideas on how to deliver Transportation Services to older adults across the state. Ms. Ellsworth is looking at fall to begin that work group but am starting the process now to see who should be/wants to be a part of those conversations.

We have a new Senior Deputy Director of the Behavioral and Physical Health and Aging Services Administration, Ms. Meghan Groen. Ms. Farrah Hanley was a previously acting in this role, along with her role as Senior Chief Deputy Director for Health.

#### **MDOT - Ms. Kim Zeller reporting on behalf of Mr. Gregg Brunner**

Mr. Brad Wieferich has officially been named the MDOT Director.

Thank you to the Michigan Traffic Safety Summit organizers - the event was well attended and well done, and it was great to have the conference back.

After holding a Safe System Approach (SSA) workshop in April internally with Traffic and Safety staff, System Administrators, and management on how to implement SSA within their work areas, Traffic and Safety staff are taking the show on the road to the seven regions. The goal is to get more staff to understand what SSA and how they can contribute to the overall safety on Michigan's roadway through their work activities.

MDOT is working with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on establishing the next round of Safety Targets for 2024. The targets will be finalized upon the release of the 2022 crash data. For this year not all numbers will match those issued by the OHSP due to a difference in regulations from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Therefore, a waiver has been issued. Both federal agencies will work on a concurrence for next year.

In response to the new hands-free law, the MDOT will be placing signs at all 37 trunkline entrances to the state. The message on the regulatory (black on white) sign has been finalized as follows:

*MICHIGAN LAW  
HANDS-FREE  
DEVICE USE  
ONLY*

From June 30-July 8, 2023, the MDOT will be placing messages on at least 50% of the Dynamic Message Signs statewide. Construction messages and incident messages would generally be a higher priority. The message is as below:

*NEW MICHIGAN LAW  
NO HANDHELD DEVICES  
WHILE DRIVING*

MDOT is moving forward with its FY25 to FY29 Safety Call for Projects with instruction going out in July. A part of the call is funding for safety projects. For this call there will be a greater emphasis on vulnerable road users with funding set aside for such projects.

**Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) - Ms. Linda Scarpetta**

Child Passenger Safety (CPS) and MDHHS staff are working with emergency medical services agencies and the OHSP for the recruitment and recertification of technicians. Also working with hospitals on car seat inspections ahead of hospital discharge and working a Governor's proclamation for CPS week.

The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer proclaimed May 1, 2023, as Heatstroke Awareness and Prevention Day here in Michigan.

**Michigan Department of State (MDOS) - Mr. Bobby Gwizdz**

***Road to Restoration Clinics***

As mentioned at our previous meeting, MDOS, along with the Michigan Department of the Attorney General and other business community and nonprofit partners, is hosting Road to Restoration clinics across Michigan in 2023. Road to Restoration is a free clinic to assist Michigan residents in understanding the steps to restore their driving privileges. Residents are strongly encouraged to register for the clinics in advance. Since 2022, there have been more than 24 clinics. The most recent clinic in Detroit helped over 900 citizens and was our largest to date. Our next set of clinics will be across the Upper Peninsula the week of July 10, with clinics in the Northern Lower Peninsula in August. For more information, including additional clinic dates and locations and sign up information, visit:

[Michigan.gov/RoadtoRestoration](https://Michigan.gov/RoadtoRestoration).

***CMV Skid Pad***

The Michigan Truck Safety Commission (of which the MDOS is a member), and the OHSP are working to enable a Commercial Vehicle skid pad training facility to provide training for CDL drivers. The training will provide classroom instruction and real-life exercises utilizing a variety of the CMV combinations. This training experience will allow the CMV operators to sharpen their skills of crash avoidance, especially while driving in adverse weather conditions. This has been long needed and is greatly anticipated to begin in the fall of this year.

***Driver Assessment Webpage***

It was previously shared that information regarding Driver Assessment referrals and reexaminations is available on the Secretary of State's website. A marketing URL is now available to promote ease of access: [www.Michigan.gov/SOSDA](https://www.Michigan.gov/SOSDA).

***MDOS Presentations***

The Driver Assessment Section appreciates the opportunity to present at the 2023 Michigan Traffic Safety Summit. Driver Assessment Section Field Operations Unit Manager Mr. Eric Kabdebo and Analyst Mr. Tom VanderPloeg presented a session with Dr. Edna Rose of the U of M Michigan Alzheimer's Disease Center on the cognitively impaired aging driver.

Our office also appreciates the opportunity to provide a presentation and staff a department booth at the Michigan Teen Conference in Saginaw on June 12, 2023. The department provided a presentation to youth in foster care and caseworkers centered on the licensing and I.D. process, teen driving risks and voter registration information.

***Traffic Safety - public information and awareness***

Since March, MDOS has identified, developed, and implemented traffic safety educational messaging on:

- Work Zone Awareness

- 100 Deadliest Days for Teens (Memorial Day - Labor Day)
- Motorcycle Safety (Look Twice, Save a Life)
- The Safe Drivers Smart Options Keys to Lifelong Mobility strategy

This information is featured on the Motor Vehicle Network messages in Secretary of State offices, social media, and in regular outreach to Driver Education Providers and other partners. In addition to the aforementioned topics, we've also assisted outreach by sharing OHSP materials related to the hands-free distracted driving law that takes effect tomorrow.

**Michigan Department of Education (MDE) - Mr. Troy Hansbarger**

Commissioner was not present for today's meeting.

**MSP - Major Ryan Pennell**

Commissioner was not present for today's meeting.

**Local Representative - Mr. William Miller**

The General Assembly of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), voted to adopt the [Southeast Michigan Transportation Safety Plan](#) at its General Assembly meeting in Taylor last week.

At the recent Michigan Traffic Safety Summit, the distracted driving presentation with Mr. Joel Feldman was very heartfelt with this message being shared further.

Oakland County is buying space in Pontiac to help with traffic initiatives.

Farmington is seeing better speeds. SEMCOG created the following video to pair with their Traffic Safety Plan: <https://youtu.be/IOnzFSnMID0>

**Governor's Office - Mr. Steve Kiefer**

Hands-free legislation signed on June 7, 2023, with the Governor, Secretary of State, and the Attorney General at an ice rink in Plymouth, Michigan (named after Mr. Kiefer's son) for signing. Michigan was the 26<sup>th</sup> state to implement this legislation with Alabama as the 27<sup>th</sup> state the following week, and Florida on the path to do the same.

The Kiefer Foundation website: <https://mkiefer.org/>

**Chair's Report / Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) - Ms. Katie Bower**

**Personnel & Staff**

The OHSP is continuing to fill several staff vacancies with the most recent staff selections being:

- Police Traffic Services Coordinator - two vacancies
- Teens/Seniors/Distracted Driving - vacant - posting pending
- Grant Monitoring/Compliance Auditor - vacant
- Traffic Records Crash Coordinator - posting closed

**Michigan Traffic Crash Data Update**

As of June 26, 2023:

- Crash Stats Year to Date 379 fatalities - Last year we were at 381
- Total fatalities 410 - last year we were at 407
- Total crashes 127,569 - last year we were at 129,708

**OHSP Public Information Efforts**

Traffic safety partners are encouraged to support our efforts by publicizing the specific traffic safety topics to your agencies, network partners, and through your social media accounts.

OHSP communication programs over the next few months include:

- Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over July 1-30, 2023



- Stepped up enforcement also includes seat belt and speed during the month of July
- Bicyclist Safety Enforcement Week is August 7-13, 2023, in selected cities/counties
- Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over - August 18-4, 2023
- September - Child Passenger Safety Week September 17-23, 2023

### ***New Grant Solicitation Process***

The OHSP management team has finished reviewing grant proposals. A total of 124 proposals were submitted. Only three proposals were not approved as they were not proposals that could be funded with federal funding.

The FY24 annual grant application is due to NHTSA by August 1, 2023.

Mini grants will be offered after the award is given.

### ***Triennial Highway Safety Plan (3HSP)***

The 3HSP is due by July 3, 2023, to NHTSA.

### ***Traffic Safety Summit***

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit was held June 13-14, 2023, at the Amway Grand Plaza and DeVos Place in Grand Rapids. Approximately 340 participants were in attendance.

- Thank you to Sheriff Poulin for chairing the 2022 GTSAC Awards.
- The OHSP staff reviewed Summit feedback which was extremely well received.
- Planning for the 2024 Summit will resume in July with the plan to host again in March 2024 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **A. HAAS Alert and the MSP - Captain Rick Arnold**

- Captain Arnold is division director of the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division (CVED), and the chair of the Michigan Truck Safety Commission (MTSC).
- He presented with HAAS Alert at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit.
- Digital alerting is warning messages directly to oncoming motorists and vehicles. This occurs as real-time notifications allowing for timely and safe maneuvering, with the potential to be incorporated in navigation software platforms.
- Digital alerts reduce the risk of collision by 90% and provide enhancement to lights and sirens to get driver's attention when it matters most.
- In 2021, Michigan traffic crash fatalities numbered 1,131 - the most traffic fatalities in the state since 2005.
- The average number of MSP patrol vehicles struck over the last four years for which data has been reviewed is 28.
- Vehicle hardware can be turned off by the driver for a certain duration of time until key cycled again.
- Not only does this device send messaging to traffic but also reads other HAAS devices.
- Next steps: MSP is in the process of acquiring the HAAS Alert system with 150 patrol cars to be equipped with devices on the dashboard.

### **B. CDL Anti-Masking project - Mr. Dale Schneider and Mr. John Wallace**

- Survey completed by Mr. John Wallace from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) a few years ago. He tracked 500 random moving CDL citations from the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division (CVED). Citations were from all over the State of Michigan.
  - Of the 500 citations, found that only 30% of those tickets made it to the CDL holders driving record. In other words, 70% of the citations were either dismissed or reduced to non-abtractable offenses, that do not show up on the driving record.
  - The result was a finding on masking against the State of Michigan.
- Masking is the practice or an instance of a defendant's agreeing by plea bargain to plead guilty to a less serious offense than the one originally charged.



- Finding of masking against the State - potential consequences:
  1. The federal government can withhold 4% of Michigan's federal road funds the first year, which equals approximately \$36 million dollars.
  2. The federal government can withhold 8% of Michigan's federal road funds the second year, which equals approximately \$76 million dollars.
  3. The federal government can decertify the States ability to issue CDLs for all individuals.
  4. There are over 300,000 CDL holders residing in Michigan.
  5. These individuals will have to reside in another state if they want to continue holding a CDL.
- Michigan's action plan:
  - Once a finding was made against the State for masking, Michigan was required to come up with an action plan.
  - Michigan applied for and was granted a grant by the federal government to address the masking issue.
  - Part of the State's action plan was to hire an attorney to help educate the prosecutors, law enforcement and courts on the dangers of masking.
- Collaborate anti-maskings outreach program:
  - Collaborative effort by the FMCSA and the State of Michigan.
  - Met with 68 of the 83 county prosecutor offices.
  - Met with 6 of the 7 CVED districts.
- Masking is a public safety issue:
  - FMCSA's mission is to save lives by reducing CMV crashes.
  - 10,000 individuals die every year in alcohol related motor vehicle accidents.
  - Nearly 5,000 individuals die every year in CMV accidents.
  - These are professional drivers who need to be held to a higher standard.
- Masking is prohibited by 49 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.)
- Major violations include but are not limited to operation while intoxicated, refusing to take alcohol test, leaving the scene of an accident, using a vehicle to commit a felony, and using a CMV involving trafficking of persons.
- Serious violations include but are not limited to speeding 15 mph or more, reckless driving, improper or erratic lane change, following too closely, violating traffic control law in connection to a fatal accident, texting while driving, and driving CMV without CLP/CDL in possession.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Review of the annual crash statistics**

- On June 28, 2023, the OHSP and Criminal Justice Information Center (CJIC) released the 2022 annual crash data. The UMTRI has updated their Michigan Traffic Crash Facts (MTCF) website as well.
- 1,123 crash related fatalities in 2022 - slightly lower than the 1,131 deaths in 2021.
- Alcohol-involved fatalities also fell by 10 percent, from 357 deaths in 2021 to 322 in 2022.
- Traffic fatalities on Michigan roadways rose 15 percent in the last five years, from 974 deaths in 2018 to 1,123 in 2022.
- Bicycle fatalities increased to 36 in 2022, up 24 percent, from 29 fatalities in 2021.
- Work zone crashes saw a 28 percent increase - from 5,814 in 2021 to 7,436 in 2022.
- Fatalities in work zones increased from 20 in 2021 to 23 in 2022, up 15 percent.
- Pedestrian fatalities decreased from 183 in 2021 to 173 in 2022, down 5 percent.
- Drug-involved fatalities decreased from 275 in 2021 to 249 in 2022, down 9 percent.
- Motorcyclist fatalities increased from 166 in 2021 to 173 in 2022, up 4 percent.
- Commercial motor vehicle-involved fatalities increased from 103 in 2021 to 105 in 2022, up 2 percent.
- Distracted-driving fatalities decreased slightly from 59 in 2021 to 57 in 2022.

## **B. Office of Highway Safety Planning grant updates**

- For the open grant solicitation process for agencies across the state to apply for grants, there were 124 proposals submitted. There were only three proposals which did not meet the grant requirements, with the other 121 proposals moving forth for approval.
- Ms. Bower was pleased to see the number of new agencies and law enforcement agencies who applied for a new grant, including a tribal agency.
- After grants are awarded, the NHTSA typically provides additional funding for added grant awards. The OHSP is looking to potentially open another window for grant proposals to occur in the fall with more detail to follow.

## **C. Hands-free laws**

- The new hands-free legislation goes into effect on June 30, 2023.
- Around May 15, 2023, the OHSP started working on the messaging and campaign process with Brogan & Partners. Two recent campaigns were created by the OHSP and Brogan & Partners:
  - [One Small Act](#)
  - [Go Hands Free](#)
- The OHSP has also created a distracted driving flyer which will be shared June 30, 2023.
- OHSP distracted driving website: [www.michigan.gov/DistractedDriving](http://www.michigan.gov/DistractedDriving)
- What is the law enforcement messaging?
  - Ms. Bower shared the OHSP worked with the Governor's Office for a press release slotted for June 30, 2023.
    - Ms. Bower will connect with the OHSP Communications team to create a package to openly share with other departments regarding messaging.
  - Sheriff Poulin shared they are re-training staff with officers educating individuals ahead of issuing citations.
  - Chief Gale shared they are interested in repurposing details and campaigns already in place to be shared with chiefs statewide. He has an interview planned with the Detroit Free Press and welcomes Ms. Bower to join this discussion.
  - The MDOT adding permanent signage highlighting that Michigan is a hands-free state with detail also included on dynamic message boards. Also working on social media messages.
  - Mr. Gwizdz shared that he could draft some detail for social messaging if interested. The OHSP has also created static socials with Michael Doyle from the MDOS posting messaging as well.
  - Mr. Tim Hogan stated that Safer Streets for All creates signage that direct messages those utilizing a cell phone while driving.
- What is the method to push this messaging ahead of the holiday weekend?
  - Increased law enforcement presence with targeted areas selected along with social media blasts.
- The OHSP increased enforcement funds towards seatbelt enforcement, with funds approved to oversee distracted driving efforts.
- Mr. Kiefer shared the Kiefer Foundation will be blasting videos and information ahead of the holiday weekend. If we determine other approaches in the coming weeks, please let Mr. Kiefer know. They also provided several cell phone mounts at a recent conference in Mackinac with more to be produced and provided (idea to reach out to a vehicle provider for sponsorship).
- For the states that have implemented a hands-free law, there has been a 10-20% reduction in crashes and fatalities which also impacts insurance rates. Continual messaging and enforcement are key to keep the positive momentum.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments during today's meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12, 2023, starting at 9 a.m. at the Horatio S. Earle Learning Center.

DRAFT